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The President's Daily Brief

13 September 1969

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SOVIET UNION - COMMUNIST CHINA

Moscow has refrained from almost all anti-Chinese propaganda since the Kosygin-Chou meeting. The Soviets may be testing Peking's intentions with this relative silence, and by demonstrating a willingness to tone down the polemics, they also buttress their claim to be the aggrieved party. It is still too early to tell whether the Chinese will ease up on the border or in their propaganda, but chances are they probably won't--at least for very long.

If--as seems more and more likely--the Soviets took the initiative in arranging the meeting, they had good reason to do so. Moscow's deteriorating relations with Peking have been hurting it on several levels. The Soviets believe the Chinese are trying to bleed them white on the border and fear Peking may be prepared to continue the skirmishes indefinitely. The Soviets also find themselves at a political disadvantage, since both their enemies and their allies consider them vulnerable because of preoccupation with the Chinese. 50X1

JAPAN - SOVIET UNION

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SOVIET AFFAIRS

Satellite photography shows eight SS-11 ICBM silos to be under construction at an IRBM complex in the western USSR. Two more have been discovered at an MRBM complex, also in the western part of the country. 50X1

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MIDDLE EAST

The nine Egyptian TU-16 bombers which have been kept in Algeria since January are returning to Egypt. Three have already landed at Cairo, and the others are scheduled to return within the next week. Egypt probably believes it can safely recall the bombers now that protective shelters have been completed at five airfields.

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